

SP

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/697,006	NOZAKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Matthew D. Hoel	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 07/20/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-8, renumbered as 1-7, respectively.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>11/27/06</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|


XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

TC3760

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Carl Schaukowitch on Nov. 27th, 2006.
3. The application has been amended as follows: Please replace [floral] before "kinds of restoration patterns" in the 28th line of Claim 1 as amended on July 20th, 2006 with plural.
4. This change mirrors the language in independent Claim 8. There was no support in the specification for floral patterns, the examiner believing "floral" to be a typographical error.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The examiner finds the inventive step to be a backup restoration notifying device (in the main embodiment, a transparent LCD) arranged in front of the game result display device (in the main embodiment, a plurality of slot reels), the backup restoration notifying control device storing plural kinds of restoration patterns, wherein when the gaming machine is powered on again, the backup restoration notification device displays a decisive image display (in the main embodiment, the game result from the winning combination of

Art Unit: 3714

symbols), the backup restoration notifying control device controlling the backup restoration notifying device so that it displays the decisive image according to the restoration pattern selected by the backup restoration notifying control device.

Essentially, when the gaming device is being powered back up after being turned off or losing power, the game state or previous winning results are displayed on a transparent LCD screen in front of the slot reels according to the displayed restoration pattern selected from a plurality of restoration patterns by the gaming device (see, in particular, Figs. 11 and 12 of the specification). The examiner finds that this step is not taught or suggested by the prior art. The examiner respects that the applicants may have differing reasons for allowance.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Baker, et al. in U.S. patent 6,976,915 B2 teach simulated halftones. Motegi, et al. in U.S. patents 6,893,345 B2 and 6,817,946 B2 teach virtual images. Wells in U.S. pre-grant publication 2004/0029636 A1 teaches a gaming device with a three-dimensional display. Biferio teaches LCD displays in U.S. patents 4,371,870 A, 4,562,433 A, and 4,568,928 A. U.S. publications 4,518,225 A, 6,853,410 B2, 6,720,021 B2, 6,339,418 B1, 6,141,067 A, 6,642,975 B2, 6,377,339 B1, 6,954,238 B2, 5,146,354 A, 5,546,296 A, and 4,826,296 A teach LCD displays with backlighting. U.S. publication 6,611,917 B1 teaches power management for a gaming device. U.S. publications 6,181,301 B1 and 2003/0214471 A1 teach combined displays.

Conclusion


7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew D. Hoel whose telephone number is (571) 272-5961. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Fri., 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

9. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan M. Thai can be reached on (571) 272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew D. Hoel, Patent Examiner
AU 3714


XUAN M. THAI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TC3700